

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY East Germany

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SUBJECT 1952 Leipzig Autumn Fair Radio and Tele-  
communications Exhibits: Analysis of Products;

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SOURCE

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Hungary, Rumania, Czechoslovakia, and Poland were especially interested in measuring instruments and tubes, including miniature tubes, exhibited by the HF Telecommunications Plant. Miniature tubes produced by the HF Plant were shown for the first time. The tubes were displayed in a glass showcase. Belgium purchased an unspecified number of television sets. Remuneration was to be arranged through barter deals or paid for in foreign exchange.

Poland was interested in all products of the VVB RFT plant in Leipzig. Czechoslovakia inquired about teletype and switchboard instruments manufactured by the RFT Geraetewerk Chemnitz (plant for apparatus) and placed an order totalling 60,000 eastmarks or 60,000 rubles. There was a brisk demand on part of the satellite countries for telecommunications checking-cases (sic), ultra short-wave measuring instruments, and all wave receivers produced by RFT Funkwerk Erfurt (radio plant).

Great Britain was interested in all instruments, especially in ultra short-wave instruments. Some sales were effected. Czechoslovakia placed a considerable number of orders with the Funkwerk Dresden for fault-locating devices, recorders of characteristics, and interference search gear. Delivery was scheduled to be carried out in 1952.

The Union of South Africa was interested in fault-locating devices.

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3. The measuring instruments produced in East Germany were of unusually good quality. Certain ultra short-wave measuring instruments were even better than corresponding products of West German plants. Great interest was shown in a material and rail-testing device based on ultra short-waves. This equipment was suitable for the testing of rails up to 50 meters long. The East German condenser industry fell far short of meeting the demand because of a shortage of aluminum foil and condenser paper. As to the remaining construction elements, a trend toward small products was noticeable. For example, the Gera Condenser Plant exhibited "Styroflex Liliputs" with capacities from 50 to 1,500 microfarad for nominal voltages up to 500 v; the dimensions were 4 mm in diameter and 30 mm in length. Wire condensers were developed and scheduled to be produced in early 1953. Selenium rectifiers, resistance devices, and potentiometers were also shown in miniature sizes. However, miniature switches were not seen. The employees at the stands declared openly that most of the new developments had been sent to Leipzig directly from the laboratories. Sometimes, the equipment was labeled with the sign "Versuchsmodell" (test model).
4. Almost all Czechoslovak products displayed were of good quality; the quality almost equalled that of the East German products. Hungary was also up-to-date in the vacuum technology, particularly the Tungsram-Ujpest firm, which excelled in the quality of its products. Products exhibited by the other satellite countries did not reach the technical level achieved by Germany. For example, lead cables from China did not meet the standards of the VDI (Verein Deutscher Ingenieure) (Union of German Engineers). Hungary, Rumania, and Poland exhibited measuring instruments without attenuation chambers. Telephone sets were completely obsolete. The U.S.S.R. displayed radio sets in cardboard cabinets poorly sprayed and partly equipped with tubes produced by the HF Plant.

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5. In 1952, display of the electrical engineering and signal communications industry in the special Soviet exposition was substantially smaller than in 1951. Television sets were not exhibited at all. No new features were shown by this branch of industry. Material and workmanship of all products were of top quality. According to source, all instruments shown on Soviet prospectuses were of Soviet make. Large dimensions and a certain compactness were characteristic of the Soviet measuring instruments. The instruments produced in East Germany revealed a tendency to conform to West German and American-made models. Source did not learn of any sales of Soviet equipment.
6. All electrical engineering and radio sets shown in the extensively propagandized special exposition of Communist China greatly resembled American and British models. For example, some motors appeared to be original Westinghouse or GE models provided with Chinese name plates. Source observed that one radio set exhibited was an American RCA export model with the scale and operating directions in Chinese. The official Chinese representative at the Fair was Dr LO'0 (fnu).
7. The technicians of East Germany indicated in conversation that the Soviets are highly interested in their maintaining close contact with West German colleagues and in their study and evaluation of West German technical magazines and new developments in order that they be utilized.
8. Printed matter was scarce. All publications, including brief technical descriptions or simple prospectuses referring to valuable equipment or components, had to be approved by the East German Ministry for German Domestic and Foreign Trade and were given allocation numbers. Printed material concerning certain instruments were examined by the Bureau fuer Wirtschaftsfragen (Office for Economic Affairs).

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1. Comment. The VVB RFT Leipzig is the overall administration of a large part of the East German radio and telecommunications industry and as such may be said to "produce" practically every standard item of equipment through its subsidiary plants, i.e., condensers from the Gara plant, broadcast equipment from Stern Radio Berlin, etc.

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2. Comment. Possibly the former Werkstaetten fuer Physikalische Messgeraete, insbes. Schleifen-Oszillographen (Laboratory for Physical Measuring Equipment, especially string oscillographs), Mess-Physik, Dr. Soerensen GmbH, Zernsdorf near Berlin, Breite Strasse 101, listed in the 1951 Leipzig Spring Fair directory as "in Treuhandlung", i.e. in trust. This plant was reported as "Works No. 3" under RFT Funkwerk Koepenick

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